

VOTING BY MAIL

Everything You Need to Know

Due to mail delays, request and return your mail-in ballot as soon as possible!

DATES AND DEADLINES

- **Monday, October 19, 2020:** Last day to register to vote
- **Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 5 p.m.:** Last day to request an absentee or mail-in ballot: VOTESPA.COM
- **Tuesday, November 3, 2020:** Completed mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by your county election office no later than **Friday, November 6, at 5 p.m.** or dropped off at a drop box or county election office by Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, at 8 p.m.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My VBM ballot request was rejected because my county said I applied twice. What do I do?

First, check the [Dept. of State online ballot tracker](#) to see if your ballot application is already being processed. If you still have questions or believe your rejection was an error, contact Cykhira Walton, Voter Protection Fellow, at cwalton@pavoice.org, for help.

When will ballots be sent out? When should I be worried about not having received it?

Counties are now allowed to send out ballots, but they are not legally required to do so until 10/13.

If you are concerned that you haven't received your ballot yet, [contact your county election office](#). They can tell you how to get a replacement.

What if my ballot never arrives?

If you do not receive your ballot before Election Day, you can vote on a provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day.

How do I track my ballot?

You can track your ballot using the Dept. of State's online ballot tracker.

WWW.PAVOTERSERVICES.PA.GOV/PAGES/BALLOTTRACKING.ASPX



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Can I change my mind about voting by mail if I've already requested a mail-in ballot?

Yes. Although you can't cancel your request for a mail-in ballot after you have applied, you can bring your ballot to your polling place and the poll worker will "spoil" (void) your ballot. You can then vote normally. (**You must bring the entire package, including the outer return envelope with the sticker that has your information on it.**)

If you don't have your mail-in ballot, you can still vote on a provisional ballot. Once the election office checks that you did not return a mail-in ballot, your vote should be counted.

What should I do to make sure my ballot is counted?

1. Request and return your mail-in ballot as soon as possible.
2. Use **black ink** to fill out your ballot.
3. **Do not put any marks** on the secrecy envelope or the ballot itself (other than filling in the ovals).
4. After marking your ballot, put your ballot in the secrecy envelope before putting it in the outer return envelope. **"NAKED BALLOTS," or ballots without security envelopes, will not be counted.**
5. Make sure to **sign the outer return envelope**.
6. **Drop off ONLY your own ballot.** You cannot drop off someone else's ballot for them (even family members) unless the voter has a disability and has designated you as their agent.
7. If you can't drop off your own ballot because of a disability, you can have someone else drop it off for you, but you will need to fill out a special form for them to bring in with your ballot. [You can find a copy of the form at www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Accessible-Voting.aspx](http://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Accessible-Voting.aspx)
8. Track your ballot on the Dept. of State website.



You can only drop off your own ballot!

What are my options for returning my ballot?

You can drop it off at your county election office, a satellite election office, a secure drop box, or put it in the mail.

Some counties have created satellite election offices, where you can apply for a mail-in ballot, fill it out, and return it in one trip. You can also just drop off your completed ballot. Some counties also offer secure drop boxes.

If you are a county resident, you can use any of the satellite offices or drop boxes in the county. You do not have to use a specific one based on your voting district.

Not all counties are planning to have drop boxes or satellite election offices, and counties are still rolling out these options. You can find a regularly updated list of election offices, satellite election offices, and drop boxes (including their hours) at the bottom of this page: www.votespa.com/EarlyVoting

If you plan to put it in the mail, **make sure to leave plenty of extra time**, as mailing times are longer than in the past.

What are "early vote locations" that I've read about in the media?

Some counties, including Philadelphia, have set up satellite election offices. These are one-stop shops where you can register to vote, apply for a mail-in ballot, complete it, and return it all at the same time. Ballots cast this way will still be counted as mail-in ballots. **Although these offices are sometimes called "early vote centers" or "early vote locations," they are not the same as early voting in many other states.** You cannot vote on a machine at these sites the same way you would on Election Day. A ballot cast at one of these locations is treated and counted exactly like any other mail-in ballot. You can vote at any of these locations if you are a county resident, regardless of your voting district.

If you have a problem or more questions about voting by mail, contact us!

866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
For forms, ballot tracking, registration, and more information go to votespa.com.

